

RESOLUTION ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS FOR FARM WORKERS AND SUPPORT
OF THE DELANO, CALIF., FARM WORKERS STRIKE

Whereas the Board of Directors and the General Assembly of the Illinois Council of Churches have previously resolved to support the extension of collective bargaining rights to agricultural workers by providing coverage under the National Labor Relations Act; and

Whereas we endorse the goal of the National Goals of the 5th Decade of Migrant Ministry pertaining thereto (which reads as follows):

"Mutual association with others to achieve legitimate ends is a basic need and right of all in a free society. This applies to agricultural workers equally with other economic groups. Forms of organization for democratic and self-determining participation in economic, political, civic and other areas of life and work, by which farm workers seek responsibly to advance their status will be encouraged. Specifically included within the general right of association is the right to organize into labor unions and bargain collectively with employers. Laws and other public policies which have been established to regulate this relationship between employers and employees to establish justice, and to protect all the parties involved should be extended to include agricultural wage workers."

Whereas it is both natural and just that farm workers should participate in the decision-making process about wages, working conditions and automation; and

Whereas the right to bargain with strength as free men has consistently been denied farm workers; and

Whereas most employers in the Delano, California area (Kings and Tulare Counties) have indicated no willingness to enter into negotiations, therefore:

(1) We support the National Farm Workers Association and the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AFL-CIO), in their current strike efforts and urge them to continue until such time as their just demands are recognized.

(2) We call upon our denominations to engage in a program of education and action setting forth statements endorsing the Delano Farm Workers strike and giving material support such as money and food, (lard, pinto beans, coffee, and flour are urgently needed), and that these statements and actions be reported both to the national offices of the denominations and the Illinois Council of Churches.

(3) We call upon President Johnson to support and Congress to enact federal legislation extending the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act so that it includes agricultural workers and so that the minimum wage be extended to cover agriculture.

Approved by the Board of Directors, June 1, 1966.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CENTRAL ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST
CHURCH

Whereas farm workers have organized to bargain with their employers in Delano, California, Starr County, Texas and Wautoma, Wisconsin; and

Whereas the bargaining efforts in the above places have been marked with disorder and hardships for both employees and employers; and

Whereas leaders of Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish faiths have joined with other groups to form the National Campaign for Agricultural Democracy with the sole purpose of including agricultural workers under the National Labor Relations Act; and

Whereas the Board of Christian Social Concerns and the Women's Division of the Methodist Church are financially supporting the National Campaign for Agricultural Democracy; and

Whereas Methodists are very much involved in eight Migrant Councils within the boundaries of the Central Illinois Conference of the Methodist Church; and

Whereas in 1966 more than 20,000 migrants came to work in Illinois;

Therefore: We call upon President Lyndon B. Johnson to support and the 90th Congress to enact federal legislation extending the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act to include agricultural workers.